

Meeting Notes from the
Blue Ribbon Committee on Shoreline Management
February 21, 2012

The Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) on Shoreline Management met on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 in the Gressette Building, Room 406, Columbia, S.C. (Attachment 1)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by BRC Chairman Wes Jones at 9:20 a.m. The following members were in attendance:

Paul Campbell
Ray Cleary
Josh Eagle
Elizabeth Hagood
Wes Jones
Bill Otis
Tom Peeples
Clementa Pinckney
Terry Richardson

Also in attendance were DHEC Board member Mark Lutz, DHEC-OCRM staff, and members of the press and public. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Jones stated that in accordance with the SC Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), broadcast and print media were notified of this February 21, 2012 meeting of the BRC. Additional notices were posted at Department offices and on the website.

Mr. Jones stated that there were not enough members of the committee in attendance to establish a quorum. He informed members that the committee would discuss recommendations for addressing the issue of establishing quorum at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Time was allocated to the public for comment. No comments were received.

ACTION ITEM:

Approval of January 17, 2012 meeting notes

The Chairman indicated a need to correct amended notes regarding voting procedures that were captured in the January 17 minutes. He stated that the vote on October 4, 2011 related to the policy of retreat passed by a 2/3 majority with six committee members voting in favor of the motion, three members voting against and two abstaining. The motion for the following is an official recommendation of the committee: To replace language regarding the policy of retreat with the following: *The policy of the state of South Carolina is the preservation of its coastal beachfront and beach/dune system.*

It was moved, and seconded, to approve the revised notes of the January 17 meeting based on the correction provided above. *The meeting notes were approved.*

OLD BUSINESS:

As requested by members at the January 17 meeting, insurance professionals were invited to provide additional information on potential impacts to coastal property insurance and the Community Ratings System resulting from proposed changes to the setback area.

National Flood Insurance Program's Community Ratings System - Presentation by Berry A. Williams, Berry A. Williams and Associates

Mr. Williams provided an overview of the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System and its goal of reducing flood damage to insurable properties. He explained how community credits are applied to reduce flood insurance premiums for coastal erosion setback regulations that are adopted by the state or local government. He also provided data on the coastal communities in SC that received credits, and reviewed projections to annual savings that could be realized if stricter building rules like those in Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head and Pawley's Island were applied in other coastal communities. Finally, he compared SC savings to those in NC.

Managing the Cost of Coastal Property Insurance -Presentation by Leslie M. Jones, Deputy Director of Actuarial and Market Services, SC Department of Insurance

Ms. Jones provided an overview of the SC Department of Insurance and its mission to enforce and implement the insurance laws of the state. She detailed threats to the coast, increases in coastal population and increases in costs and property damage that would occur with disasters. She explained how premiums are calculated, and noted that managing costs can be accomplished by restricting building in dangerous areas, maintaining natural buffers, and retrofitting buildings. She also stated that availability of property insurance and the associated rates would not be directly impacted by increasing the setback distance, but by the proximity of a structure to the water. She indicated that land use and hazard mitigation planning can help reduce rates.

NEW BUSINESS:

State and Local Beachfront Management Plans - Presentation by Carolyn Boltin-Kelly, Deputy Commissioner DHEC-OCRM

Ms. Boltin-Kelly provided an overview of the state and local beachfront planning provisions established in the Beachfront Management Act. She outlined the components of the State Beachfront Management Plan and discussed the planning requirements for local beachfront communities. She addressed the process for developing and adopting local plans and explained the benefits of implementing a plan at the local level. Ms. Boltin-Kelly detailed current initiatives by DHEC-OCRM to improve coordination and information sharing with beachfront communities, and new guidelines to streamline and enhance local plans. She stated that there were no specific recommendations before the committee on this topic. However, she invited the committee to discuss ways to improve the local planning process.

One member questioned whether changes were necessary and suggested that the committee focus on specific issues that need to be resolved. Another member described his experience with the process and questioned the benefits of the local beachfront planning effort. He indicated that the process is duplicative of other planning efforts like hazard mitigation and comprehensive planning. It was suggested that local governments be given additional authorities to manage and enforce beachfront policies at the local level. It was stated that local governments currently have the ability to be more restrictive than the state in their beachfront policies, and it was asked what additional regulatory authorities were desired at the local level. Other members supported the need to maintain state level management indicating that some issues require a regional or statewide approach and are beyond the local level.

Emergency Orders and Sandbags - Presentation by Matt Slagel, DHEC-OCRM Shorelines Specialist

Mr. Slagel provided an overview of emergency orders (EOs) that may be issued to beachfront property owners before or after a storm to provide temporary barriers from wave action. He discussed the required elements of an order, current regulations relating to EOs including the definition of "emergency", and design and placement criteria for sandbags used in an emergency. He also described the numbers and geographical distribution of EOs that have been issued since 1985. Mr. Slagel outlined the recommendations of the Shoreline Change Advisory Committee (SCAC) to enhance regulations including

redefining the criteria for an “emergency” declaration, and establishing a formal process for issuing EOs and removal of sandbags. Additional recommendations by the SCAC included avoidance of repeat EOs by requiring local beachfront communities to identify vulnerable areas and plans for avoiding future EOs, and documenting all past EOs in Local Beachfront Management Plans. Finally, recommendations that re-evaluate sandbag design and enforcement measures were presented.

A brief discussion of issues relating to emergency orders followed. It was questioned whether emergency orders are being issued for chronic erosion situations rather than storm related events for which they were intended. There was concern that issuing EOs for chronic erosion removes incentives for long term planning to preserve and stabilize the beach. One member suggested that sandbags be discussed separately from other orders given that the majority of issues with EOs involve sandbags.

MEETING WRAP UP:

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 13th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Gressette Building in Columbia. The meeting will continue discussions related to emergency orders and sandbags.

Mr. Jones adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Attachments:

- 1 Agenda
- 2 Sign-in Sheet



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

Blue Ribbon Committee on Shoreline Management

February 21, 2012

*The Gressette Building, Room 406
1101 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201*

AGENDA

9:00 am Welcome and Introductions

Wes Jones, Chair

Action: Approval of January 17 Meeting Notes

9:15 Public Comment Period

9:30 Old Business

- Discussion of Community Rating System

Mr. Berry Williams, Hazard Mitigation Consultant, Berry A Williams and Associates, Inc.

- Managing the Cost of Coastal Property Insurance

Ms. Leslie Jones, Deputy Director, SC Department of Insurance

10:30 New Business

- Role of Local Governments in Coastal Management
- Process for Issuing Emergency Orders

11:45 Wrap Up

Wes Jones, Chair

- Next Meeting Date: March 13, 2012 in Columbia

12:00 Adjourn

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

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Blue Ribbon Committee on Shoreline Management
 Tuesday, February 21, 2012
 406 Gressett Building, Columbia, SC

PLEASE PRINT

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